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15 October 1957

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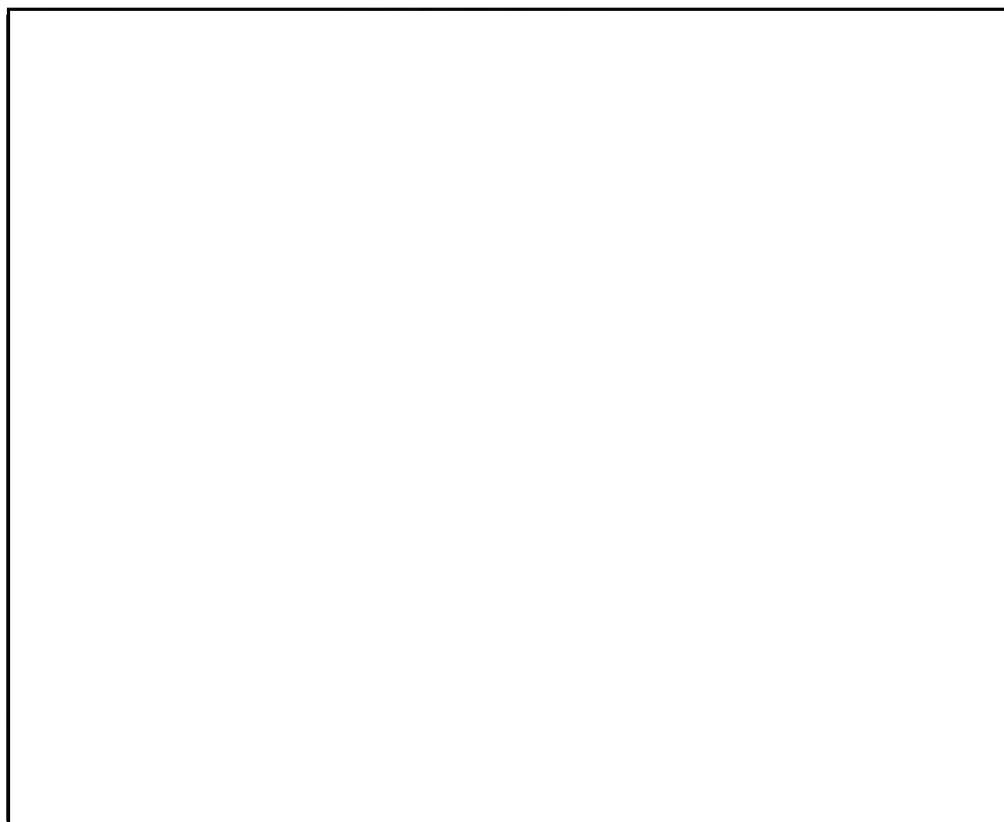
# CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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## OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. USSR REPORTEDLY PRESSING SYRIA TO SEEK UN  
SUPPORT AGAINST TURKEY

The USSR is "putting pressure" on Syria at all levels at the United Nations and in Damascus to bring the Turkish-Syrian situation into the UN General Assembly or Security Council, [REDACTED]

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A formal Syrian complaint against Turkey would provide the USSR with a further opportunity to call upon the United Nations to condemn alleged Western plotting against Syria and to endorse the Soviet proposal for a four-power declaration renouncing the use of force and interference in the internal affairs of Middle East countries.

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During the opening days of the General Assembly session, Syrian delegates reportedly complained of being "loved to death" by Soviet bloc delegates. The only step taken by Syria so far has been a letter to the UN secretary general on 8 October pointing to the "massing" of Turkish troops. The letter requested no formal UN action.

Although Soviet leaders continue to warn against Turkish intervention, they appear to believe there is a greater likelihood of an internal coup than of foreign military intervention to overthrow the Damascus regime. [REDACTED]

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## 2. SYRIAN INTERNAL SITUATION

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The election of Baathist leader Hawrani as speaker of the Syrian parliament on 14 October places him in line to succeed the politically impotent President Quwatli should the President resign as a result of the pressures building up in Syria.

While the election of the anti-Western Hawrani, who has feuded with local Communists, does not presage an improvement in Syria's relations with the West, it will prove an obstacle to pro-Soviet Defense Minister Khalid al-Azm, who also aspires to the premiership and the presidency.

The defeat of the former speaker, Dr. Nizam al-Qudsi, whose Populist party is the largest in the chamber, puts a formal seal on the defeat of conservative elements in Syria. The forthcoming 15 November municipal elections are being boycotted by the Populists, in tacit admission of their political impotence.

In the field of inter-Arab relations Hawrani's elevation, taken with the arrival of Egyptian troops in Syria, may tend to offset Soviet influence by reminding the Syrian public their country has an ally other than the USSR. King Saud, however, will find little comfort in this victory of a man who has maligned him so often in the past.

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### 3. TURKISH-SYRIAN BORDER SITUATION

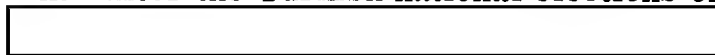
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Turkish military maneuvers originally scheduled for 15 October have been postponed until the end of the month, according to the American air attaché in

Ankara. A Turkish general officer indicated to him that the maneuvers, concentrated in the sensitive area on the Syrian border, now are scheduled to begin on 29 October or 1 November.

These dates would postpone the maneuvers until after the Turkish national elections on 27 October.



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7. SOME YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS CONCERNED OVER  
TITO'S PRO-SOVIET POLICY

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President Tito's policy of closer association with the USSR--as shown by Yugoslavia's decision to recognize East Germany on 15 October--is said to be causing concern within the Yugoslav regime. Some officials fear that such a policy ultimately will lead to Yugoslavia's complete dependence on the USSR,

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[redacted]

[redacted] Tito and his intimates are aware of this possibility but believe they will be able to persuade the United States to continue its economic aid.

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[redacted] a feeling is growing among what is as yet a small minority of the top Yugoslav leadership that Tito was hoodwinked when he promised to support Khrushchev's foreign policies. This group believes Khrushchev has never forgiven Tito for the break with the USSR in 1948 and will use him as long as needed and then crush him.

Differences within party ranks over the long-term effects of rapprochement with the USSR may have caused the recent postponement of the seventh party congress from November to April, but do not threaten the stability of Tito's government.

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8. AGITATION AGAINST US TROOPS IN SOUTH KOREA  
SEEN PROMOTED BY FOREIGN MINISTER

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Ambassador Dowling believes that although the South Korean reaction to recent incidents involving American military personnel and Korean civilians stems basically from growing nationalism, the "irresponsible attitude" of Foreign Minister Cho Chong-hwan has aggravated public feeling.

Cho, who is believed to be working for a South Korean-US status-of-forces agreement to further his personal ambitions, is exploiting distortion of these incidents by the local press to stir up popular agitation for such an agreement.

Despite the new emphasis on these incidents, less than half as many have occurred this year as in 1956, and there have been less than a third as many fatalities, according to American military authorities. Magnification of the incidents, however, threatens to develop significant anti-American sentiment for the first time since the Korean war.

Most incidents have occurred during Korean attempts to steal American military supplies and equipment. General Decker, the UN commander in Korea, has stated publicly that American military supplies worth \$2,000,000, including 1,500,000 gallons of gasoline, have been stolen since January 1956 and that monthly losses now average \$95,000. Following General Decker's statement, the press reported on 12 October that the South Korean government has urged provincial governors and police chiefs to make greater efforts to prevent thefts.

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# 9. THAI PREMIER GIVES VIEWS ON SOVIET EARTH SATELLITE AND THAI POLITICAL SITUATION

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Thai Provisional Premier Pote Sarasin told Ambassador Bishop in Bangkok on 9 October that he hopes to withdraw from Thai politics after the December elections and return to the post of secretary general of SEATO, even though Marshal Sarit and others are urging him to stay on as premier. Pote expects the elections to result in a "coalition government" comprising Sarit's military group, the pro-Sarit Unionist party, and the conservative Democratic party of Khuang Aphaiwong. The principal bond uniting these groups is antipathy to the regime of former premier Phibun.

Pote believes that either Khuang or Unionist chief Sukit Nimmanhemin, currently economic affairs minister, will take over as premier. Pote described Sukit as an economist with moderate "socialistic inclinations," which he thought would be held in check by the "inherent conservatism" of the military group. Bishop believes Pote is unduly optimistic on this last point.

Pote told Bishop the Communists have made "important advances" in Asia during the past three years at the expense of the West, a trend reflected in the fact that Soviet and Chinese Communist accomplishments were "on everyone's lips." He added that previously "no one would even think of the USSR as approaching the US in strength and technical advances." He said many leading Thais now cite the Soviet launching of an earth satellite as an indication that the USSR is ahead of the US in technological development.

Pote informed Bishop, however, that the Thai government was planning three television and radio programs, one of which would be devoted to Hungary as an example of what can happen to a Communist-dominated country. The other two are to point out the value to Thailand of SEATO and American aid.

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